

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a character recognition method and recording medium for recognizing characters entered in a document or the like including preprint information. An object of the invention is to recognize characters in contact with or superposed on the preprint information without using any knowledge of the preprint information or a difference in gray level. An image in an area where the characters to be recognized are present is divided into line segments individually, wherein the image is obtained by reading the preprint information and the entry characters. A recognition image is created by changing a combination of the plurality of line segments divided. A recognition result with the reliability is memorized by making the character recognition for the created recognition image. And the recognition result having a greatest reliability is output by executing the character recognition for all the combinations while changing the combination of line segments successively.